

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### 1. GENERAL

|                                           |                                                                                                                     |                                |                                           |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>SCHOOL</b>                             | ENVIRONMENT, GEOGRAPHY AND APPLIED ECONOMICS                                                                        |                                |                                           |
| <b>DEPARTMENT</b>                         | GEOGRAPHY                                                                                                           |                                |                                           |
| <b>LEVEL OF COURSE</b>                    | UNDERGRADUATE                                                                                                       |                                |                                           |
| <b>COURSE CODE</b>                        | GEO376                                                                                                              | <b>SEMESTER</b>                | 5 <sup>o</sup> , 7 <sup>o</sup>           |
| <b>COURSE TITLE</b>                       | THEMES IN GEOGRAPHY                                                                                                 |                                |                                           |
| <b>STRUCTURE OF TEACHING ACTIVITIES</b>   |                                                                                                                     | <b>TEACHING HOURS PER WEEK</b> | <b>NUMBER OF CREDITS ALLOCATED (ECTS)</b> |
|                                           |                                                                                                                     | 3                              | 5                                         |
| <b>TYPE OF COURSE</b>                     | Specialized general knowledge, Skills Development                                                                   |                                |                                           |
| <b>PREREQUISITES</b>                      | -                                                                                                                   |                                |                                           |
| <b>LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION</b>            | ENGLISH                                                                                                             |                                |                                           |
| <b>COURSE OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS</b> | YES                                                                                                                 |                                |                                           |
| <b>(URL)</b>                              | <a href="https://geo.hua.gr/en/courses/themes-in-geography/">https://geo.hua.gr/en/courses/themes-in-geography/</a> |                                |                                           |

### 2. EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

| Learning outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| <p>Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recognize and describe key physical, social, and environmental characteristics of Greece, placing them within broader Mediterranean and global geographical contexts.</li> <li>● Interpret key processes, such as urbanization, demographic change, geomorphological evolution, and socio-ecological transformations, and explain how they shape landscapes and societies in Greece (and in the wider European context).</li> <li>● Apply geographical concepts and approaches to analyse contemporary challenges, such as urban and regional inequalities, climate and environmental change, biodiversity loss, and pressures associated with intensive tourism development.</li> </ul> |

### 3. COURSE CONTENTS

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| <p>The course is based on the understanding of Geography as an inherently interdisciplinary field that bridges the natural and social sciences, integrates different spatial and temporal scales of analysis, and draws on diverse epistemological approaches. In this context, Geography offers multiple analytical lenses for understanding the world and interpreting the complex relationships between environment, society, and space.</p> |
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Building on this theoretical and methodological foundation, the course approaches Greece through selected themes in physical and human geography, connecting local and national processes to broader Mediterranean and global dynamics.

The thematic development of the course begins with the urban realm, focusing on the historical evolution, contemporary challenges, and resilience of Athens as the country's capital and dominant metropolitan region. It then broadens the scope of analysis to examine issues such as regional inequalities, demographic change, geomorphology, biodiversity and environmental change, rural transformations, insularity, and contemporary challenges of environmental governance. Emphasis is placed on the interactions between social and environmental change in a context of demographic decline, biodiversity loss, and intensifying pressures from overtourism.

#### 4. TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                   |
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| TYPE OF LECTURES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Face-to-face, In the classroom                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                   |
| ICT USE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Use of electronic media in lectures and use of the internet (e-class).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                   |
| TEACHING STRUCTURE<br><br><i>The manner and methods of teaching are described in detail.</i><br><i>Lectures, seminars, laboratory practice, fieldwork, study and analysis of bibliography, tutorials, placements, clinical practice, art workshop, interactive teaching, educational visits, project, essay writing, artistic creativity, etc.</i><br><br><i>The student's study hours for each learning activity are given as well as the hours of non-directed study according to the principles of the ECTS</i> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Semester workload |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Lectures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 39                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Study and analysis of literature                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 26                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Preparation of group assignment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 20                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Independent study and preparation for final assessment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 40                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Course total                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 125               |
| ASSESSMENT METHODS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Language of assessment: English<br><br>Assessment methods<br>1. Assignment submission 30%<br>2. Written examination 70%<br>Students will work in small teams to produce an illustrated blog post.<br>Short-answer essay questions. The assessment does not aim at memorization, but at assessing students' understanding and ability to formulate well-reasoned and coherent arguments. |                   |

#### 5. RECOMMENDED READING

Before and/or after each lecture, students will receive two indicative scientific papers related to the lecture topic, for further study and reflection. These readings, together with the lecture content, will form the basis for the course assessment.